

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10997

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP PINS PINT ET US

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF EPMG: RECOGNITION ISSUE

REFS: (A) ADDIS 10925; (B) ADDIS 10912; (C) STATE 200946;

(D) ADDIS 10956

1. CREATION OF ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (EMAC) QUITE POSSIBLY DESIGNED MELD MILITARY SHADOW GOVERNMENT AND CIVILIAN BUREAUCRACY INTO EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION (CF REF A). APPOINTMENT OF MOD LG AMAN ANDOM AS EMAC AND COUNCIL MINISTERS CHAIRMAN AND THUS CURRENTLY DE FACTO HEAD OF ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG) SUGGESTS INCREASED FUTURE COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN CABINET AND AFCC. ALTHOUGH NEW REGIME IS BILLED AS "PROVISIONAL", SUCH CIVILIAN-MILITARY FUSION SHOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT DEGREE OF INCREASED STABILITY TO NATION, AND EPMG THUS SEEMS FAR MORE LIKELY TO ENDURE THAN BOTH ITS PREDECESSORS.

2. WITH RESPECT QUESTION OF US RECOGNITION, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NORMAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED WITH THIS GOVERNMENT. WHILE EPMG OBVIOUSLY WOULD DESIRE EARLY STRONG US EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT, WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED NORMAL RELATIONS, FOLLOWED IN FEW DAYS BY USUAL EXPRESSION BEST WISHES TO GENERAL AMAN FOR SUCCESS IN HIS NEW POSITION, WOULD SATISFY NEEDS OF THE MOMENT.

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3. UNLESS EVENTS DEVELOP UNEXPECTEDLY INTO EROSION OF PUBLIC

ORDER AND STABILITY, WE CONSIDER IT MOST DESIRABLE THAT AN AGREEMENT REQUEST FOR A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR BE SUBMITTED SOON AFTER THE CROWN PRINCE'S RESPONSE TO THE EPMG'S SUMMONS LEADS TO CLARIFICATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT LIKELY HAVE CONSIDERABLE STAYING POWER AND THAT THE EARLY PROPOSAL OF AN AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT, AS EVIDENCE OF US GOODWILL, ON THE NEW REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.

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